



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

February 10, 2004

Applicant(s): Mark L. SODERSTROM et al.

For: DIRECTIONAL SOLIDIFICATION METHOD AND APPARATUS

Serial No.: 10/630 224

Group: 1725

Confirmation No.: 8299

Filed: July 30, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Docket No.: MP355

Commissioner for Patents

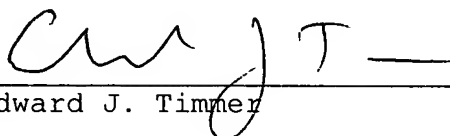
P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FIRST CLASS MAILING CERTIFICATE

Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 11, 2004.


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enclosures listed thereon



PATENT APPLICATION

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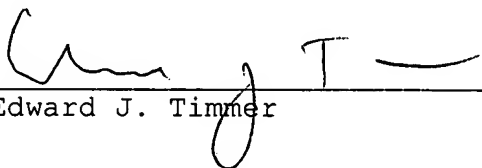
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of Rules 1.97(b)(3) and 1.98, enclosed herewith is Form PTO-1449 and the references cited thereon. Accordingly, further comment at this point in time should not be necessary.

Further consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward J. Timmer

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Encl: Form PTO-1449
One copy of each cited reference
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INFORMATION	Applicant : Mark L. SODERSTROM et al.	
DISCLOSURE	Serial No. : 10/630 224	Filed : July 30, 2003
CITATION	Group : 1725	Atty. Ref. : MP355

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	AA 3 714 977	Feb-73	Terkelsen	164	60	
	AB 3 810 504	May-74	Piwonka	164	60	
	AC 3 841 384	Oct-74	Tingquist et al.	164	60	
	AD 3 897 815	Aug-75	Smashey	164	127	
	AE 4 108 236	Aug-78	Salkeld	164	388 R	
	AF 4 178 986	Dec-79	Smashey	164	251	
	AG 4 213 497	Jul-80	Sawyer	164	60	
	AH 4 763 716	Aug-88	Graham et al.	164	122.1	
	AI 4 819 709	Apr-89	Lallement	164	154	
	AJ 5 168 916	Dec-92	Doriath et al.	164	338.1	
	AK 5 429 176	Jul-95	Atkinson et al.	164	412	
	AL 5 778 961	Jul-98	Hugo et al.	164	122.1	
	AM 5 841 669	Nov-98	Purvis et al.	364	554	
	AN 5 921 310	Jul-99	Kats et al.	164	61	
	AO 5 988 257	Nov-99	Hugo	164	122.1	
	AP 6 085 827	Jul-00	Hugo	164	122.1	
	AQ 6 276 432	Aug-01	Thompson et al.	164	122.1	
	AR 6 311 760	Nov-01	Fernihough et al.	164	122.1	
	AS 6 378 835	Apr-02	Wakita et al.	249	78	
	AT 2001/0018960A1	Sep-01	Thompson et al.	164	122.1	5-May-01

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Y/N
	AU WO 99/12679	Mar-99	WO			Y
	AV 0 278 762	Aug-88	EP			Y
	AW 1 162 016	Dec-01	EP			Y

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pages, Etc.)

AX	Ametek Brochure for Hunter Spring Products; Sellersville, Pennsylvania; 1999; pages 3-12.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through